



CACCP

Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies

**Testimony of Carrie Rand-Anastasiades
General Law Committee
In Support of
HB 7052 AN ACT PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DIVERSION
AND ABUSE**

Good Afternoon Representative Baram, Senator Leone, and Senator Witkos and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies. We represent chain pharmacies around the State such as Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Stop & Shop, and PriceChopper to name a few. I am here today to testify in support of H.B. 7052 AN ACT PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DIVERSION AND ABUSE.

Our community pharmacies have been on the front lines of opioid crisis we find ourselves in the midsts of. We have always been supporters of the prescription drug monitoring program and its expansion and have trained our pharmacists to be prescribers of the life saving drug Narcan. We believe that to curb drug diversion, electronic transmission of controlled substances is a must. It is the safest way to prevent the fraudulent use of paper prescriptions. Currently, pharmacies find themselves in the precarious position of turning away patients that arrive at our counter with prescriptions that are not written on tamper resistant prescription pads. This happens in many cases because the doctor has forgotten to use the correct prescription pad, or they did not print from the appropriate tray of the printer. If the prescription was sent electronically, dispensing would be seamless and patients would receive the medication they need more timely fashion. Paper prescription pads are out dated and offer little protection from fraud.

Electronic transmission of prescriptions is working exceedingly well with non controlled substances and would only be strengthened by adding controlled substances to it.